

Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

em-tri-SIT-uh-bean, te-NOE-fo-veer dye soe PROX il

Brand Name: Truvada

Drug Class: Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors

Truvada includes two antiretroviral drugs: emtricitabine (Emtriva) and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate (Viread). Both of these drugs are nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs). NRTIs blocks reverse transcriptase, a protein that HIV needs to make more copies of itself.



HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate are approved individually by the FDA for the treatment of HIV infection in adults and children. Because these two medicines frequently are prescribed together, the manufacturer has combined them into one tablet to allow for once-a-day dosing. Truvada was approved by the FDA as a coformulation on August 2, 2004, for use with other antiretrovirals in the treatment of HIV-1 infection in adults. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Dosage Form/Administration

Truvada comes in tablet form and is taken by mouth.

The recommended dose of Truvada is one tablet once a day. Some patients, such as those with decreased kidney function, may require a different dose of Truvada.

Contraindications

Warnings and side effects of Truvada may be similar to those for both of the medicines separately. (See individual summaries for emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate for more information.) Patients with advanced kidney disease should not take Truvada. Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

The medicines in Truvada, like other NRTIs, can cause a sometimes fatal lactic acidosis and liver disease as well as blood problems or muscle weakness. A doctor should be notified if an individual taking this medication experiences digestive system problems, joint or muscle pain and weakness, pain or tingling of hands or feet, headache, dizziness, and unusual tiredness.

Along with its desired effects, Truvada can cause some unwanted effects. Serious side effects of this medicine include kidney failure; severe pancreas disease; nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, decreased appetite, or weight loss; general feeling of discomfort; muscle pain or cramping; difficulty with or shallow breathing; sleepiness; and unusual tiredness or weakness. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have symptoms of any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include abdominal discomfort; diarrhea; dizziness; intestinal gas; nausea; headache; rash; and skin discoloration. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Emtricitabine/Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate
Gilead Sciences Inc
333 Lakeside Dr
Foster City, CA 94404
(800) 445-3235

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Manufacturer Information (cont.)

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For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health
Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday,
12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help
Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET